















THOUGHTS

ON THE BOOKS OF

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE,

AND

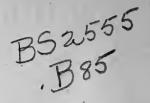
JOHN.

BY OLIVER BUTTERFIELD.



BOSTON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
By WRIGHT & POTTER,
No. 4 Spring Lane.

1860.



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MATTHEW.

- 1: 18. What deformity and suffering there is in the world for the want of the knowledge of a healthy and holy propagation of the human race.
- 1: 25. To be happy we must be governed by the love of usefulness and perfection, instead of the gratification of the propensities without regard to the consequences.
- 2: 16. What cruelty some will perpetrate to sustain themselves in office and power.
- 3: 11. Baptism is the inspiration of truth and the love of usefulness.
- 4: 4. Words of love and truth well chosen and fitly spoken, stimulate the soul to a higher life.

- 4: 6, 7. Exercise reason and judgment before submitting to impulses and blind faith.
- 4: 9. Whosoever will sacrifice a mission of love and usefulness for earthly possessions, will have sad reflections in mature consideration.
- 4: 11. How consoling is sympathy and friendship in times of evil temptations and trials.
- 4: 17. Preparation for the kingdom of heaven is in your individual and social organization, as you are prepared to receive and promote it.
- 4: 19. Follow Jesus, the God of love, light and truth, and he will qualify you to attract and instruct men by superior love and wisdom.
- 5: 3. When we feel our need of more light and love, we shall be happy to seek and find it, and be established in the enjoyment of eternal life.
 - 5: 4. Afflictions will exercise our affec-

tions and unite congenial spirits in the bonds of love and faith.

- 5: 5. When we are imbued with the knowledge and love of Jesus we shall have all our wants supplied.
- 5: 6. When we make the knowledge and love of truth the object of our lives we shall understand and promote the laws of our individual and social natures, and be satisfied and happy in love, one towards another.
- 5: 7. Those who do not cultivate mercy cannot find mercy.
- 5: 8. Blessed are those who can perceive the spirit of light and love passing from heart to heart, to purify the human race; for as face answereth to face in water so does the heart of man to man.
- 5: 9. Blessed are those who are happy in promoting peace and righteousness on earth.
- 5: 10. If our faculties are stimulated by persecution, it will lead us to strengthen

our principles; and if our principles are established on the rock of ages, we shall be happy in progressive love and truth and in overcoming evil with good.

- 5: 12. In all ages of the world there have been religious reformers and religious conservatives—persons imbued with new spiritual life, and those wedded to past usages and customs; but let the friends of new impulses examine and mature their principles, for great is their reward in a heaven of love in the rising generations, as they are in Christ the life and the resurrection.
- 5: 13, 14, 15, 16. Persons of experience should impart their knowledge, that they may be instrumental in promoting the glory of God in the perfection of the human race.
- 5: 17. The law of God's purpose is the nature and operation of things, and the prophets are the teachers sent to enlighten the children of men and give them new thoughts for new generations. Whosoever

violates their physical and mental organization by vicious and unnatural habits which exhaust their early vigor and their faculties, shall suffer premature decay and shame, and transmit disease and misery to their posterity.

- 5: 21. Whosoever destroys the life or reputation of a fellow-being, breaks the laws of his social organization and wounds his own soul.
- 5: 27. To indulge lust in unnatural acts or thoughts inflames the passions, exhausts the faculties, and produces the most loathsome diseases that afflict humanity; few sins are so awfully destructive to the beauty of the soul—the true life of love.
- 5: 29. Cut off all impure and exciting habits if you would have a happy life and a happy posterity.
- 5: 33. Men should not perform oaths to men, but to the God of truth only.
- 5:38. Rigorous laws and penalties exasperate and harden, while mercy and

forgiveness soften and reform. Human nature can be improved only by love and sympathetic instruction.

- 5: 40. There should be more regard to honor than to fear and to penalties.
- 5: 42. If you have oppressive rulers, render good for evil that they may learn mercy and wisdom.
- 5: 44. Enmity can be removed only by love and kindness, for as face answers to face in water, so does the heart of man to We all have the same organization, but differing in degrees of power; the organs of our bodies act upon and govern each other, and as we are organs of the social body, so we act upon and govern each other by our social influence. And if our individual systems are governed by the superior moral organs, so is the social system governed by the superior principles and cultivation of individual members. our combativeness is excited and we strike a fellow-being, it will excite his combativeness, and he will strike back; but if our

combativeness is calmed by enlightened benevolence, so we shall calm his combativeness by our superior benevolence; and if we subject our fellow to severe penalties, we shall excite retaliation in his congenial friend, and we shall be in danger till we conquer by superior love and superior principles.

- 6: 5. Hypocrisy deceives none so much as those who practice it.
- 6: 6. Pray for and cultivate constant aspirations for truth.
- 6: 9. After this manner pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and suffer us not to be tempted, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.
- 6: 14. If we shall forgive those who tresspass against us, they by the law of love and kindness will be led to reform, and a

happy influence will be spread from heart to heart, which will animate and enlarge the moral faculties till all are purified and united in one universal brotherhood of kindred spirits.

- 6: 16. The use of fasting is for serious reflection and to equalize the organs of our physical and mental organization.
- 6: 19. The inheritance of wealth takes away the incentive to self-reliance and exertion. People should depend upon the love of God and the mutual love and mutual help of the social system—the love of their neighbors as themselves. They should lay up their treasure in the heads and hearts of the rising generation; with happy homes and knowledge, and full hopes of the resurrection.
- 6: 22. Prejudice and sordid self keep us from the true light of life; if we mistake darkness for light, how great is that darkness.
- 6: 24. We cannot put our trust in riches, and at the same time love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.

- 6: 25. If we would take more thought for and interest in our neighbors, and less for sordid self, we should be more happy and useful; we must be so associated that we can be free from corroding anxieties about our individual interest, and care more for others. We must be so educated and cultivated that we can rest in the wisdom and love of God in the children of men.
- 6: 26. If we feed others with the knowledge of true life, we have increased pleasure in social love and active benevolence.
- 6: 28. A mind must be feeble and barren of usefulness that is led by the fashions of dress.
- 6: 33. We must be occupied in the perfection of humanity if we would enjoy the love of God and the love of our neighbor as ourselves.
- 7: 1. As we judge and treat others, they by the law of nature will judge and treat us.

- 7: 3. It is an evidence of ignorance and malice to expose the failings of others while we neglect our own.
- 7: 6. Give not your efforts of instruction to minds wedded to self-importance and superannuated systems; but seek your own mature ideas of truth, duty and the light of life.
- 7: 7. It is a consoling thought that we have an invisible, all-wise Protector, ready to do all that is for our greatest good.
- 7: 9. No enlightened father will suppress the aspirations of his children. If children do not love their parents who cherish them, there is some antecedent wrong in the parentage.
- 6: 12. It has a reforming and animating influence to be associated with those who are governed by mutual love—the love of others as themselves. There is a law of our natures which pervades all hearts, and each one exerts some influence for good or for evil on the whole. True love is happiness according to the extent of

the object loved. If we love ourselves only, our happiness is limited; if we love our neighbor as ourselves, our happiness is increased. So if we love God,—the whole, the pure, all pervading intelligence and love of all in all,—our happiness is complete; and how delightful is the glory of love and perfection in all, onward to a heaven of righteousness and peace.

- 7: 15. Beware of such as are wedded to old theories, without love of progress or freedom of thought.
- 7: 22. What sad reflections and remorse we shall have if we have substituted pretence, for love and actual sympathy, when Jesus the life shall say, Inasmuch as you have deceived others, you have deceived yourself.
- 7: 29. Teachers, to produce conviction, must have an inward knowledge and love of the subject presented.
- 8: 3. It will be our happiness to share and relieve the trials of those who will cultivate true life.

- 8: 4. Tell none what they are incapable of appreciating, or who will pervert your intentions.
- 8: 11. We are benefited by the spiritual presence of the great and good who have lived before us, if we will realize and embrace their experience.
- 8: 12. The children of bigoted sectarians shall suffer for want of light and progressive truth.
- 8: 15. There is a magnetic sympathy which will remove many diseases, by exciting love, hope and energy.
- 8: 20. Selfish and designing men monopolize the soil and neglect their duty to enlighten others to possess and cultivate for mutual benefit and mutual happiness. If we would realize the vacancy in a person's character for the want of something to interest and stimulate hope and perseverence, we should not rest till all within the limits of our help had an independent home secured by laws and customs, where they could enjoy free thought and free worship.

- 8: 22. Follow your own convictions of truth and duty, and leave those who are wedded to dead theories to waste their time in useless formalities.
- 8: 32. People choose to associate with their kind.
- 9: 6. Every son and daughter of man has power on earth, when they are enlightened in the love of Jesus, to forgive sins—the power of love and sympathetic instruction which will lead to mutual repentance, love and mutual hope.
- 9: 13. Love and mercy will soften and subdue, while severity will harden the heart of man.
- 9: 17. Old, fixed minds cannot bear new ideas, but children must have new hopes and aspirations. When old systems are matured they must give place to new developments and organizations.
- 9: 22. Electricity pervades the human system, and when it is moved by faith and love; it is healing in its operations.

- 9: 24. Power and sympathy may reanimate exhausted nature.
- 9: 28. Confidence and co-operation in the power of love will open our eyes to behold new truths.
- 9: 37. The people are ready, but teachers who have faith in moral power are few.
- 10: 1. Man and woman, when they are imbued with the holy spirit of love, true life and knowledge, will have power over unclean spirits.
- 10: 7. The kingdom of heaven is in our lives when we are prepared to promote and enjoy it.
- 10: 8. We must sympathize with the unfortunate, if we would elevate social life; we must have faith in the perfection of humanity; nothing else can fill the great want of our souls.
- 10: 9. We should not trust in money, but in our own efforts and the love of God in the hearts of men.

- 10: 16. Cultivate suavity, courtesy and moral courage, that you may have an influence over the unfortunate and those that are led astray.
- 10: 19. Trust in God and speak as you are moved by love of truth, at the time, place and events which call for your testimony; for your heavenly Father speaketh in you.
- 10: 22. Never give up to opposition and discouragement; for hope and peace will come to all who trustingly labor for a good cause.
- 10: 23. If we will enter into the service of Christ, his spirit will be manifest in us and we shall be like him—the Son of Man perfected and desirous of doing good. It is enough that the disciple be as his Master.
- 10: 28. Fear not designing men, but fear your own degrading servility, evil passions and propensities, which will destroy both body and mind in repulsive shame and decay.

- 10: 36. It causes strife to discuss and remove a social evil.
- 10:38. How few can bear to have their religious tenets questioned or crossed.
- 10: 39. Whosoever would save a life of self-indulgence shall lose the pleasures of a spiritual life.
- 10: 40. We represent those whose influence forms our characters.
- 10: 42. It is delightful to help those who need help and will reciprocate acts of kindness.
- 11: 4. A man's work proves his mission.
- 11: 6. Blessed are those who can embrace the truth taught by Jesus, the true life and the resurrection.
- 11: 12. The law of outward force can never govern the world of mankind; true government is in moral instruction and individual freedom.
 - 11: 14. The rising of the principles

hoped for is in a succession of prophets in progression.

- 11: 16. Children have new thoughts and aspirations which should be cultivated.
- 11: 25. Children are susceptible of the law of love.
 - 11: 27. Kindred spirits understand each other by spiritual vision and the law of sympathy.
 - 11: 28. We must raise up the fallen and cultivate confidence and trust in each other; it will encourage faithfulness, honor and friendship.
 - 12: 1. Wickedness seeks punishment for the wicked, but goodness loves mercy and forgiveness.
 - 12: 8. The human system requires amusement, devotion and relaxation from labor, and people should exercise their own judgment as to times, subject to order, and individual freedom.
 - 12: 19. The impress which a person carries often speaks louder than words.

- 12: 20. Be tender with those who are worn with tribulation and anguish.
- 12: 28. When we are prepared by the spirit of truth to embrace eternal life, the kingdom of God has come unto us, and we shall be able to withstand evil temptations.
- 12: 31. Whosoever will wound an affectionate heart, cuts himself off from mutual and holy sympathy; if parents are cruel, their children will be cruel till they are changed by the holy spirit of love; if the tree is corrupt, the fruit will also be corrupt.
- 12: 39. Ignorant and superstitious people trust in signs instead of the law of God in the nature and operation of things.
- 12: 41. The sufferings from violated laws of human nature are the same in all ages.
- 12: 43. We cannot reform unless we get higher motives and better associates.
- 12: 50. How much there is in the name of mother, sister and brother, and how delightful is Christian relationship!

- 13:11. The kingdom of heaven shall be revealed to those who keep free from prejudice and seek truth and progressive light.
- 13:12. Action and duty will strengthen our faculties, but idleness will waste and destroy.
- 13: 15. People who are kept in mental bondage to sectarian craft, will be dull of perceiving and understanding.
- 13: 17. Great and good men have desired to see the world governed by the law of truth and righteousness. Eternity is a vast chain of the ages. When we are educated to understand the laws of God in our age, we can enjoy succeeding ages, and be happy in the perfection of our race through the knowledge of life and the resurrection.
- 13: 20. Superficial and worldly minds cannot retain righteous impressions.
- 13: 31. The kingdom of heaven is when we discover and enjoy the true laws

of God in nature, spreading a happy influence over all nations and people, with knowledge and full hope of a happy and progressive life through the resurrection.

- 13: 33. The kingdom of heaven is like the leaven of true love and true social life, which free-educated and Christian women instil into the hearts of the rising generation.
- 13: 41. The Son of Man shall send teachers of truth and righteousness to raise men above sordid self and false rule.
- 13: 44. Of all the occupations of men, farming and commerce are the most conducive to health and happiness; when the cultivation of the earth and the exchange of the produce of the climate and soil is conducted scientifically, and with a view of mutual benefit, they will stimulate the whole faculties and elevate moral principle and freedom of thought and action more than all other pursuits of life.
 - 13: 47. The kingdom of heaven is

social love and progressive light, which shall cast out all evil, that the knowledge of Jesus be all in all.

- 13: 52. The kingdom of heaven is a happy home, where love and peace reign supreme, and old things become new in life and progression.
- 13: 57. We look too much to foreign instruction, instead of exercising our minds in self-knowledge and progressive light.
- 14: 19. As little food will satisfy the body, where social love is all in all.
- 14: 20. "Economy is a Christian virtue."
- 14: 30. We should do all we can for ourselves, trusting in God.
- 14: 31. A very little help may save a valuable life, and a soul from death.
- 15: 5. A well-cultivated and benevolent parentage will descend to the children.
- 15: 8. Sincerity and love of light are the beauties of devotion.

- 15: 9. We should not dictate the worship of others, but lead them by superior love and principle to a higher life.
- 15: 11. Ignorance and filthy and offensive expressions, make us repulsive to cultivated minds.
- 15: 24. A great and benevolent soul cannot withhold its sympathy from those who need help and instruction.
- 16: 6. Beware of hirelings and domineering sects, lest they lead to extravagance instead of useful instruction.
- 16: 13. Jesus is the embodiment of the wisdom of the ages in his age; the rising sun of righteousness and God with us, and the light of the world.
- 16: 18. Persons who understand the laws of life and the resurrection, will be true to their calling.
- 16: 20. Those who cannot understand the doctrines and mission of Jesus, should not be trusted with his interests.
 - 16: 23. Whosoever would control those

above them in knowledge and wisdom, may cause suffering and derangement in the progress of the world.

- 16: 24. If we would be benefited by the teachings of Jesus, we must deny ourselves, all selfish gratifications, and seek to promote the glory of God in the perfection of the children of men.
- 16: 25. Whosoever would save his life at the expense of truth and duty, shall lose it.
- 16: 26. If we sacrifice duty and principle for the sake of money or power, we shall lose the life of the soul—social and spiritual life.
- 16: 27. When we enter into the service of Jesus, we shall know of his doctrines, and be rewarded in the pleasure of doing good.
- 17: 3. We may realize the presence of the great and good gone before us.
- 17: 9. All matter decays and renovates. Sons and daughters of men will

rise inspired with love and spiritual life—saviours to instruct in the life of the ages.

- 17: 12. Those gone before are with us as they have done good or evil in their generations, and we are happy or unhappy, in light or darkness, according to their influence or instruction.
- 17: 17. How lamentable that we should be ignorant of Christ, the light of life and power in us to do good.
- 17: 20. Faith, love and perseverance will accomplish all that is for our good.
- 17: 22. We cannot destroy freedom by killing its promulgators, for death is renovation of life and thought.
- 17: 27. We cannot reform men by violent opposition to prevailing laws and customs, but by obedience, patience and sympathetic instruction.
- 18: 3. Children are more susceptible of new truths and righteous impressions than men subject to creeds and dogmas.

- 18: 5. We should receive little children as teachers, through Jesus, the resurrection, that we may learn the wants of humanity.
- 18: 7. Why will persons wound by offences those connected with them?
- 18: 10. Children know their friends by intuition; they read the soul in the countenance.
- 18: 11. It is a happy thought, that we may find in the resurrection that which was lost.
- 18: 12. There is more happiness in saving the lost, than in selfish gratifications. If we would benefit those who have gone astray, we must make them feel that we care for them as free from our dictation.
- 18: 19. The power of love increases according to the number engaged in right-eous endeavors.
- 18: 22. There should be no end to forgiveness, till all are brought to the knowledge of God, in the power of kindness.

- 18: 23. Forgive and overcome evil with love and sympathetic instruction.
- 18:35. God will discipline his children according to their propensities.
- 19: 6. The God of our natures has made male and female to be one, united in heart and mind.
- 19: 9. It is indispensable to health and happiness that persons of mature age should have chaste partners of their love and confiding trust.
- 19: 12. We should be able to control our passions, and keep our own secrets.
- 19: 14. The care and instruction of children, is the great lesson of life.
- 19: 17. To enjoy life we must cultivate and obey the laws of our physical, mental, spiritual and social organization.
- 19: 21. Every person is concerned in making his individual and social heaven, by mutual help and individual and social love of Christ, in the rising children of men.

- 19: 23. We cannot enjoy the kingdom of heaven, till we can trust God in the hearts of our neighbors, instead of earthly treasure.
- 19: 28. When we have the right idea of life, we shall be happy in others, and others in us, in life and the resurrection.
- 19: 29. When we have forsaken selfish gratifications for the love of all in all, we shall be happy in all.
- 20: 1. We cannot enjoy more than a competence of temporal things; but as we are social in our natures, we can add to our happiness by mutual help.
- 20: 10. The knowledge of Jesus will lead us to understand the impressions we make in life and the resurrection.
- 20: 23. Happiness is not in place or station, but in health, contentment, and love of truth and of our neighbor as ourselves.
- 20: 26. Let any one among you who has the knowledge and gift, be our minis-

ter; and whosoever will be chief, let him be a working member of the social body.

- 20: 28. What life-giving improvement may be had from social instruction! When the people will exercise their own Godgiven powers, the elders of society and those prepared by true wisdom and knowledge of truth, will be able to minister.
- 21: 16. When Jesus shall reign on earth, the children will rejoice in his government and life.
- 21: 19. Persons who will not be useful must wither and decay for the want of life-giving exercise and motive.
- 21: 21. Free education and faith in the laws of benevolence, will remove mountains of ignorance and superstition.
- 21: 24. Ignorant priests and designing men seek to govern by dread, instead of light and social love.
- 21: 28. A review of our acts is a privilege and a duty; and to acknowledge our faults is a mark of moral courage and refinement.

- 21: 31. Priests and rulers who exercise undue authority, are slow to understand the kingdom of God with us. Publicans and harlots are more susceptible of the progress of truth and righteousness than those under the influence of a dead theology.
- 21: 33. Ignorant, selfish and dishonest people will destroy themselves and others, unless they are enlightened in the true laws of social life and love.
- 21: 42. Teachers of progressive light are rejected till the power of the self-interested is broken, and social love takes the lead in the affairs of life.
- 21: 46. The multitude have the physical power, therefore they should be educated to understand and guide their passions to promote social harmony and moral principle.
- 22: 10. Churches should embrace all who manifest any disposition to learn the way of true life.

- 22: 11. The vicious cannot enjoy the company of the pure, till they are induced by true social love to reform, for the sake of some body else.
- 22: 14. We may have our special associates, but should neglect none who can be benefited by our influence.
- 22: 21. No one should be taxed without a corresponding benefit.
- 22: 23. The past may be recognized and improved in the present. Now is the resurrection in progress.
- 22: 30. Death dissolves all ties, to be renewed at will in the resurrection; the ties of true love are everlasting.
- 22: 31. We are the resurrection of the past, and the future will be the resurrection of us in the living, in the law of progress and perfection. All flesh is as grass, but goodness is as the flowers of the field, which are continual. In the spring they come forth in the progress of life and beauty, and in autumn they decay to rise

again in a future spring-to renew their annual presence in the resurrection and renovation. So with the human race. See the little child—the germ of the man—the angel and God with us as his physical, moral, mental, social and spiritual faculties are developed. The little child comes forth into the world through love, the attractive associations of natures. Infancy with its helplessness and confiding trust; youth in its unfolding beauty; manhood in its strength; and the winter of age, decay, to rise again in our impressions of love, happiness and usefulness-in the rising and progressive generations, to a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth everlasting righteousness, peace and love.

- 22: 32. The spirits of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are with us, as we are educated; for spirits have their symbols in the resurrection of Christ in his children.
- 22: 37. To love God supremely in his works, and to live according to his laws—the laws of our physical, mental, moral,

social and spiritual organizations—is the privilege and happiness of man.

- 22: 42. Christ is the inspired Son of Man—the life of the present and hope of the future.
- 23: 2. Teachers, to be useful, must practice their own doctrines.
- 23: 11. Let the wisest be judge, and let any preach who are inspired with love of usefulness.
- 23: 12. Modesty is a delightful trait of character.
- 23: 13. Hirelings and sectarian bigots hinder the progress of truth and light, by their self-aggrandizement and cowardly adherence to dead systems.
- 23: 15. Never proselyte to predetermined creeds, but lead others to seek their own higher life and hope.
- 23: 23. Religious teachers are often ignorant of the laws of health, true life, and the resurrection of life.

- 23: 31. When will parents learn the fact that children inherit the qualities of their progenitors? How long will mankind sow and reap bitter misery? Healthy propagation and cultivation is indispensable to the health and happiness of their offspring.
- 24: 4. People should exercise their reason that they be not deceived, for Christ is the light of love, truth and reason.
- 24: 9. New truths are hated by those who live by the awe of old systems.
- 24: 13. Those who hold firmly to righteous convictions of truth and duty, shall be saved from false beliefs and the power of fanaticism.
- 24: 14. When the doctrines of Jesus are understood by the nations of the earth, the end of false rule will come, and right-eousness and love will govern the people.
- 24: 27. As the sun rises and dispels the darkness of night, so shall the love of Jesus shine from soul to soul, till it dispels the darkness of ignorance and superstition

—so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

- 24: 30. Any change of government or custom disturbs those who live by the ignorance and servitude of their fellow beings. When the full light of Christ shall come on earth to establish the brotherhood of the human race, then shall mistaken rulers mourn; and the stars of their glory shall fall; and false civilization shall not be taken for light.
- 24: 35. The words of Jesus are according to the laws of God. In nature there is a continual succession. Whatsoever has been in some form, will be in the renovation and progress of the generations of men; and things, life and soul will be in the resurrection continually. Saviours will rise to direct in the knowledge and duties of our spheres, till we are perfect as God is perfect.
- 25: 2. The kingdom of heaven is the perfection of love, and a happy preparation for life and all its changes.

- 25: 7. Intellectual persons, and those who are ignorant, cannot enjoy an intellectual feast together; the door of mutual communication is shut, till it is opened by similar education, or similar tastes for improvement. There is happiness in social intercourse and instruction, but those who will not prepare themselves with light, cannot be admitted into the social circle of the instructed.
- 25: 14. The kingdom of heaven is like the human family in a state of mutual love and mutual help, where each is cultivating and improving his faculties for the good of the whole—where all may have sufficient for their individual and social wants, though their requirements may be different.
- 25: 25. The envious and jealous are the hardest to instruct in social love and moral principle.
- 25: 29. Action and industry will improve and sustain our faculties, while idleness will waste and destroy. We cannot help those who will not help themselves.

- 25: 31. When the Son of Man shall come in the spiritual knowledge of the life of the ages, all will be interested in one common brotherhood, realizing the truth that our acts are reciprocal in their operations, and that we are so constituted and connected that to promote the happiness of others will add to our good in Christ, the Son of Man—the resurrection of life in those now around us.
- 25: 41. When we come to our own mature judgment, we shall have bitter grief for wrong doing and neglect of duty.
- 25: 45. A tender and true-hearted person will feel an injury done to a friend more keenly than if done to himself, for we are not our own keepers.
- 26: 4. Mistaken priests in all ages of the world have made a trade in the aspirations, hopes and fears of the children of men; they have consulted how they might destroy the sons and daughters of free thought and free action. When will oppressors learn that they cannot destroy a

new idea by killing its promulgators?—for thoughts are electrical as they are opposed.

- 26: 26. Bread is the body of life.
- 26: 29. Whatsoever produces a healthy animation is the true spirit of life.
- 26: 32. Persons who are interested in superannuated systems, will be offended with the light of progressive life, but when we have knowledge, love and full hope of the resurrection, we shall be happy in our present and future progress.
- 26: 42. We should be happy to leave all things, but our duty, in the hands of God.
- 26: 52. As fire enrages fire, so do the passions of our natures. We cannot cure an evil by severity. We may restrain it for a time, but the root will remain as it was. If we restrain our enemies by severity, they are our enemies still; but if we conquer them by love and affection we change them into the warmest friends.

- 26: 56. When all earthly friends forsake us, if we will trust God, we are safe and happy though our bodies be made a sacrifice to appease the wrath of an ignorant multitude.
- 26: 64. How happy when Jesus shall reign supreme in the hearts of all—when every one shall judge righteously, instead of dictating beliefs for others.
- 26: 70. We should cultivate moral courage to aid and sustain a friend in his trials.
- 27: 19. When will we heed the counsel of enlightened woman?
- 27: 20. How prone we are to cling to the barbarous customs of the past.
- 27: 23. As the multitude is the power, how important it should be instructed in the way of love and truth.
- 27: 24. Can a person be innocent who will see a wrong done to another without using his efforts to prevent it?

- 27: 25. All crimes and cruelties are on the guilty in life and the resurrection, till they are expiated by Christ in the love and acts of reformation.
- 27: 35. How long must the innocent suffer to appeare the vengeance of misguided, designing men?
- 27: 51. When a misguided people have vented their spite on an innocent victim, and the truth occurs to them, the vail or cloud of their understanding will be rent and the graves of ignorance and superstition will be opened. Visions of the past will appear to them, and they will see things as they are.
- 27: 53. When the vail of ignorance and superstition is removed by spiritual light and freedom of thought, we shall be able to see and know the resurrection of the past in the life of the present.
- 27: 55. Woman should be educated to guide the rising life in the ways of right-eousness.

- 27: 56. No general councils should be held where enlightened women cannot be admitted as members.
- 27: 64. How much more pains we take to hide our wicked acts, than to improve them—to deceive the people, than to enlighten them.
- 28: 2. Free education will roll the rock of dictatorial creeds away, so that we may be instructed in the resurrection and the light of life—so that we can see the past in the rising generation, the fathers and mothers in their children, and ourselves in the impressions we make, onward to a new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- 28: 4. Knowledge and love of Christ are a power which will be felt.
- 28: 18. If we would have faith and courage to speak out our thoughts properly, we should have a change in our earth most delightful—where we could see Jesus in the Father, and the Father in him, and we in him. As he is in the Father risen

from the past, so in him we could trust as the beginning and the end of all things; and for him we could at last lay aside our bodies, as an old garment worn out in usefulness, and rest in his love and power forever.

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MARK.

- 1: 13. When we are worn by the rude passions of the uncultivated and perverse, how consoling is the love and sympathy of a benevolent and enlightened soul.
- 1: 14. The kingdom of heaven is with us as we are cultivated by the knowledge and love of truth and practice of charity.
- 1: 22. When we teach from the true affections of the heart, and the inward love and knowledge of the soul, we shall reach the heart and the understanding of the people.
- 2: 10. Every son and daughter of man possessed with the love of God in Christ, has power on earth to forgive sins.

- 2: 17. Pride of privilege is weakness; pride of wealth is vanity.
- 2: 22. Minds fitted to creeds and dogmas cannot bear new ideas; but children must have new thoughts and aspirations.
- 2: 27. Every person should be judge of his own Sabbath, subject to order and individual freedom.
- 3: 21. How many noble minds are cramped and injured by zealous and dogmatical conservative relations.
- 3: 29. Whosoever will continue to embarrass and irritate a sensible friend, is in danger of losing his respect and friendship.
- 3: 35. Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, mother and sister.
- 4: 25. If we do not impart our gifts to others as they need, we shall become inactive, and lose our faculties for usefulness and happiness.
 - 4: 32. If we persevere in the exercise

of our benevolent and social faculties, we shall be happy in usefulness.

- 5: 12. Kindred spirits find their associates, whether virtuous or vicious.
- 6: 8. Ministers should depend more upon industry and economy, than salaries, if they would be free from degrading temptations.
- 7: 11. When children and parents are related by love and healthy propagation, and are instructed in the true laws of their natures, it will be their mutual happiness to assist each other in the ups and downs of life.
- 9:13. The great and the good of the past are with us, as we are imbued with their spirits.
- 9: 35. Whosoever would be first, shall be last of all, and servant of all.
- 9: 37. Whosoever receiveth little children in the name and love of Christ, receiveth him, and whosoever receiveth him, receiveth him that sent him.

- 9: 42. Sensible and benevolent persons feel the treatment of friends as much as if it were done to themselves.
- 10: 15. Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall not enter therein.
- 10: 21. Society should be so cultivated that we could depend upon our own industry, economy, faculties, and the love of humanity, instead of money.
- 10: 23. The rich man can have no happiness in his neighbor whom he burdens with labor, that he may live in extravagance. If we would enjoy life, we must help others to share our happiness.
- 10: 25. All should live by useful labor, which, to be pleasant, must be prompted by benevolence, love of beauty and usefulness. It is indispensable to health that we should live by our own active labor to improve our social condition.
- 10: 37. To be engaged in any useful occupation and condition of life, is honorable, and conducive to our happiness.

- 11: 28. Truth and love from the heart, is the true authority of government.
- 12: 25. No other law but the law of love and fitness, should bind us in marriage.
 - 12: 27. The dead are in the living.
- 12: 43. We should appropriate all for the improvement of the social condition.
- 13: 30. The judgment is in every generation; the final judgment is passed.
- 14: 44. How long will people sacrifice humanity for the sake of money and fame?
- 14:63. Exclusive religious and intolerant dispositions are the most dangerous elements of human nature.
- 14: 64. Beware of hirelings and sectarian bigots.
- 15:15. The people have the power, and when the people are ignorant they are liable to be led by designing men to acts of cruelty.
- 16: 12. Jesus will appear in the resurrection, as we are enlightened and spiritualized.

16: 17. In the love of Jesus we may cast out evil spirits, by promoting love and health, and do greater works than he did; because He has gone to the Father and left us his knowledge and power for our improvement through him.

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LUKE.

- 1: 15. Holy parents will have holy children.
- 1: 41. Kindred spirits are electrical and inspiring when they come in contact.
- 2: 19. We should ponder our original thoughts and impulses.
- 2: 27. We want ministers who are moved by the spirit of truth, instead of mechanical instruction.
- 2:30. When we are prepared by knowledge and the love of Christ, we may see in the little child the promise of future usefulness and power.
- 2: 49. Children should be encouraged to follow their own convictions of truth and duty.

- 3: 11. If we would be truly happy, we must exercise charity for those we can help.
 - 3: 14. Do violence to no one.
- 4: 6. How many lose their integrity by the temptations of power and fame.
- 4: 10. Exercise reason, that your faith be not blind.
- 4: 20. The people know their true leader, when he manifests himself.
- 4: 22. Words spoken from the heart, teach the heart.
- 4: 32. We should teach from an inward understanding of the subject presented, and not from imaginary beliefs and mechanical instruction.
- 5: 30. How disgusting is self-importance.
- 5: 33. Let every act of our lives be a prayer for the perfection of humanity.
- 6: 39. We have not moral courage enough to examine liberally, to see if our light be not darkness.

- 7: 22. A man's works prove his mission.
- 7: 32. Dancing is a very pleasing and useful recreation, when conducted with temperance and sobriety.
- 7: 47. We do really love those who care for our souls.
- 9: 3. Ministers should depend upon the love of God and humanity, with their own work in producing, instead of money which leads to degrading temptations.
- 9: 23. People cannot bear to have their religious sentiments crossed.
- 9: 27. People should be educated to cultivate and enjoy heaven in their individual and social lives.
- 9: 50. How much time there is spent in compelling others to adopt our limited understanding, instead of persuading them to seek their own higher views of truth and duty.
- 9: 55. People who would compel or over-persuade others to adopt their limited views, know not what manner of spirit they are governed by.

- 9: 58. Shrewd and designing men monopolize the earth, till the humble sons and daughters of humanity have not where to lay their heads.
 - 9: 59. Seek new views in Christ.
- 9: 50. Leave dead theology and preach the kingdom of God with us.
- 9:62. We must adopt or receive Christ above all things else, if we would be prepared to understand and preach His kingdom.
- 10: 17. When we are prepared by love of Christ, evil spirits will be subject unto us.
- 11: 39. How much time there is spent in useless ceremonies.
- 12: 5. Fear degrading servility and ignorance, which destroy both soul and body in darkness and despondency.
- 12: 10. It is hard to forgive those who will continually wound and irritate; such we cannot forgive till they reform.
- 12: 15. A man's life consisteth in knowledge and usefulness.

- 12: 51. There must be agitation and division, before truth can be established over error.
- 13: 3. We should examine ourselves and see if we do not possess greater evils than those we correct in others; for character has more influence than dictation.
- 14: 3. Many people are more tenacious of ceremonies, and of keeping days, than they are of doing good and loving their neighbor as themselves.
- 14: 9. Persons to be happy and useful, must take their stations according to their talents and acquirements.
- 14: 11. A person is ridiculous who occupies a station he is not qualified to fill.
- 14: 14. Our recompense for doing good is in the benefit the rising generation receive from our instruction.
- 14:33. We cannot be useful in a cause, unless we give our minds to the work.
 - 15: 4. We must sacrifice our own de-

sires, if we would be happy in saving others from sin.

- 15: 31. We possess all things when we are happy in sharing them with others.
- 16: 18. Whosoever marries otherwise than for love, commits a sin against posterity.
- 17: 1. Why will people keep each other in everlasting torment?
- 17: 3. Forgiveness and instruction are the only remedies for evil.
- 17: 20. The kingdom of heaven is within us as our physical, moral, mental, social, and spiritual organization and faculties, are developed in love and harmony.
- 17: 25. It requires generations to prepare us to understand and mature great truths.
- 18: 1. Let every act of our lives be a prayer for some development of the Christian principle.
- 18: 12. How disgusting is self-adulation!

- 18: 13. A cautious distrust of one's abilities, is a mark of one's worth and capabilities.
- 18: 16. The kingdom of God is the love and righteous cultivation of the children of men in all their faculties, both physical, mental and spiritual.
- 18: 17. To instruct the children of men so that we can trust God in them, is worth more than all things else; for we shall rise in them in progress, as our love and instructions are.
- 20: 17. Through ignorance we often mistake the most valuable material for building, in both temporal and spiritual things.
- 21: 15. There is irresistible power in words fitly chosen, and uttered from a true and affectionate heart.
- 21: 19. In cases of danger, have thy mind and soul on Christ the rock of ages.
- 22: 17. Fruits and wines are through Christ conducive to love, health and energy of character.

- 22: 19. The body dies, but the spirit is in the living.
- 22: 29. Every person should feel the responsibility of a king; for their influence governs, for good or for evil, as it is good or bad.
 - 23: 10. How cruel is jealousy!
- 24: 16. When we are enlightened in the doctrines of Jesus, we shall know him in the living.
- 26:46. As Jesus, the Son of Man, rose from the dead, so shall all the sons and daughters of men rise in succession. What more can we want than to love God supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves, with the knowledge and full hope of the resurrection of life and love.

JOHN.

- 3: 18. Those who will not believe the doctrines of Jesus, the resurrection and life, must grope their way in darkness of the future.
- 4: 14. The knowledge of Jesus is a fountain of love springing up into everlasting life and hope.
- 4: 38. To be truly happy, we must feel that others are benefited by our labors.
- 5: 10. Some are more careful to observe the keeping of days and ceremonies, than in relieving the wants of humanity.
- 5: 19. We are creatures of imitation and example.

- 6: 35. The bread of spiritual life is love, truth, and righteousness; we should cultivate society to promote faith in mutual help, that we may be free from the corroding anxieties of sordid interests.
- 6: 39. Jesus cannot be satisfied till all, throughout all dominions, are brought to the love and knowledge of truth and righteousness.
- 6: 47. Whosoever believeth in Christ, hath everlasting life.
- 6: 57. We are mutually nourished by spiritual food.
- 6: 58. What misery there is in the world for the want of obedience to the laws of parentage. People should learn the fact that diseases and propensities are transmitted; if one of the parents is healthy and moral, the offspring may be saved by leaning to the healthy one.
- 7: 48. Administrators of old laws do not favor change.
 - 8: 4. The wicked and hard-hearted are

more earnest for the punishment of the ignorant and unfortunate criminal, than those who are upright in their lives.

- 8: 11. If we do not have mercy on others, God will not have mercy upon us. Let every one judge himself.
- 8: 48. If we are the children of God, we shall have mercy for all, as he sends rain on the just and the unjust.
- 8: 58. Jesus is always present in the highest character of man and God with us.
- 9: 7. Water, exercise and temperance, are the best remedies for exhausted health.
- 9: 25. When the eyes of our understanding are opened, we shall see things as they are.
- 10: 1. We should acknowledge our teachers, and give them credit for the way they have prepared for us.
- 10: 18. Our lives are in others, according to our instructions.
- 11: 26. Jesus is the succession of life and light.

- 12: 24. Whosoever giveth his life for the instruction of the people, shall find his happiness in the light of the rising generation.
- 12: 48. How sad will be our own judgment when we reflect on our evil actions and neglect of duty—of neighbors deceived, husbands and wives offended, parents who have wounded the affections of their children, children who have grieved their parents.
- 12: 50. All our knowledge comes from the Father of all.
- 13: 3. What more can we want than to know that God is good, and that we come from him, and go to him to live again in the resurrection of life, as we are prepared.
- 13: 34. What a delightful world this will be, when true love shall be the ruling passion—when all our actions shall tend to improve the mind and the cultivation of the earth for ourselves and the rising generations, onward to a new heaven and a

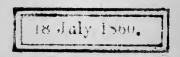
new earth, wherein dwelleth love, righteousness and hope.

- 14: 6. The way of true life is through Christ, the resurrection and succession of life.
- 14: 10. We are in the Father and the Father in us—the succession and perfection of life.
- 14: 12. Jesus teaches his disciples that they may do greater things than he did, because he goes to the Father, and leaves them free to improve on what they have learned from him.
- 14: 19. The world cannot see Jesus, but his disciples see him, and as he lives they shall live also, and shall be with him in the Father and the Father in them, in perfection and love.
- 14: 23. If we love Jesus, he will be manifested in us.
- 15: 1. We want more friendly association; if we would be happy we must make each other happy. We are all of one vine;

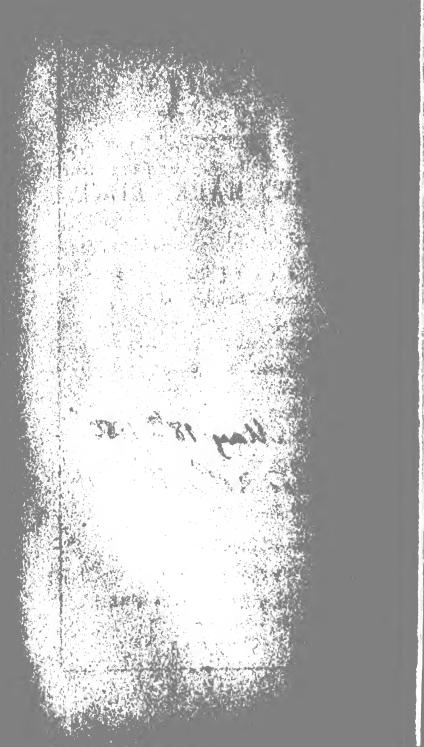
no branch can be perfect till all are cultivated and made productive and useful. It is our privilege to get and impart knowledge and love of truth; and when we are in Christ and Christ in us—we in others and others in us—the more we impart and the more we have, till we arrive at perfect love, in life and the resurrection.

- 15: 13. True friends will love and depend on each other as themselves.
- 16: 7. It is the law of our being that we must obtain true and elevated life through death and the resurrection, and that we stamp our impressions upon the rising generations according to our lives, as they are good or bad; and at our own mature judgment we shall look back, with pleasure or regret, as we have been useful in the world, or as we shall leave the world better or worse for our sojourn in it.
- 16: 21. When our trials and sufferings are over, we shall rejoice that they have led us to more light and love.
- 17: 21. Christ and his disciples are one with the Father.

- 19: 11. The political power is in the multitude as it is moved by its teachers.
- 19: 15. Jesus is crucified through ignorance and jealousy.
- 19: 23. All garments should be without seam, woven from the top throughout, as sewing is destructive to health and usefulness.
- 20: 15. If the material and individual body of Jesus rose from the grave, would not many of his disciples have known him? But it takes quick and spiritual apprehension to see and know the spiritual body. No old material form rises as it was, but the spirit is the same.
- 20: 25. How long will people doubt the presence of a risen Saviour—the resurrection of the past and hope of the future.
- 21: 25. But the material world cannot comprehend the spirit and the resurrection.







THOUGHTS

ON THE BOOKS OF

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE,

AND

JOHN.

BY OLIVER BUTTERFIELD.

Depositio May 18 - 1880 Recorded Vol. 35 Page 3/16

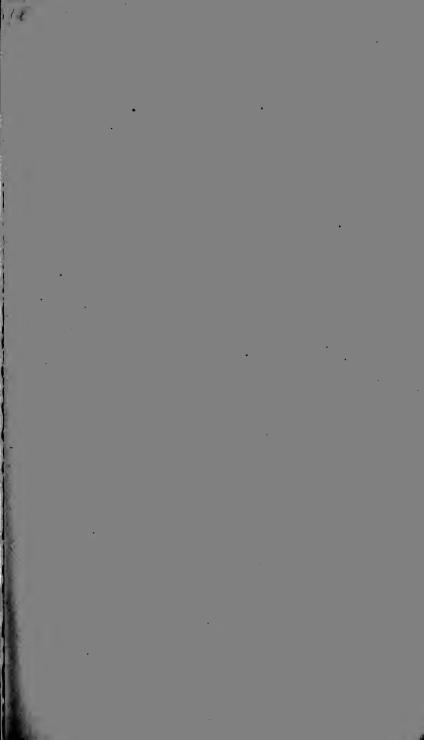
BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY WRIGHT & POTTER,
No. 4 Spring Lane.
1860.

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